



"Here comes the Parade"



# THE BANDWAGON

THE CIRCUSIANA MAGAZINE

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SEPT.-OCT., 1960



SPARKS CIRCUS, 1927



## ALLEGORICAL PONY-DRAWN PARADE FLOATS



Photo No. 16—Eagle Float of Welsh Brothers. Photograph from the Woodcock Collection.



## CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS. 1960 ROUTE BOOK

TO BE PUBLISHED NOV. 15

(CHS CIRCUS OF THE YEAR)

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# THOSE DIMINUTIVE TABLEAUS, THE ALLEGORICAL PONY-DRAWN PARADE FLOATS

By Richard E. Conover



Photo No. 1—Dragon Float originally with Howes Great London in 1871. Chester Photo Service, 179 Lincoln St., Boston, supplied the photograph which was taken on Barnum & Bailey about 1888.

It was my intention, long before now, to follow my 1956 pamphlet, *THE TELESCOPING TABLEAUS*, with another on this subject. In it, I had hoped to fix the origin and trace the transfers from show to show of most of the score, or so, of these floats that are known to us largely through photographs. The attempt to follow through on the original objective has revealed that there were many more of these vehicles than I had suspected, a fact which is further complicated by duplication, in name but not necessarily in design, of those with the more popular titles, such as *Cinderella*, *Santa Claus*, and *Red Riding Hood*.

With half of the evidence at hand, some highly plausible but erroneous conclusions would have been drawn. Fortunately, this has been avoided; but, unfortunately, very little more can be accomplished at this time other than to catalog the available information. I find that it is not even possible to identify which, if any, of our better-known wagon shops built any of them.

So as not to include all the four-wheel conveyances that were ever hitched to a string of diminutive quadrupeds, I intend to limit the subject to small platform vehicles that had carved figures as their prime features and to avoid the coach

types generic from the *Cinderella Pumpkin Coach Fantasy*. However, in dealing with the pre-photographic past, there can be no assurance that some of those that will be mentioned will not be of the wrong classification.

Some of the major shows, including Barnum & Bailey, Ringling Bros., Sells Bros., and John Robinson, had sets of from three to seven, each set obviously built about the same time with, except for the featured carving, a marked degree of similarity about them. The Forepaugh Show seems to have accumulated a hodge-podge collection of about five from various sources, some of which were





Photo No. 2—Red Riding Hood, Ringling Brothers, circa 1900. This and photographs no. 3 and 4 are from the so-called Trimpy negatives, which are believed to be copy negatives from a large collection of pictures made by Alf Ringling. These copies were obtained from Bill Kasiska who now owns the Trimpy negatives.



Photo No. 3—Jack the Giant Killer, Ringling Bros, circa 1900.



Photo No. 4—Robinson Crusoe, Ringling Brothers, circa 1900.

possibly imported from England. Other smaller shows had one or two. Altogether, allowing for the fairly clear cases of transfer and resale, about 45 different ones can presently be accounted for.

The first of these, Queen Mab's Fairy Chariot, appeared on the Howes United States Circus in 1848 very shortly after the first ornamental bandwagons made their debut in the middle 1840's.

These bandwagons, followed by all of the animal cages that the show could muster and intersperse, on occasions, with mounted riders fixes the date of the first American circus parades worthy of the name. Therefore, the pony float, as the first augmentation to the basic procession, appeared many years before 1857 when the first calliope tailed the Nixon & Kemp parade, an dby a still longer period before Seth B. Howes brought back from England in 1864 either some second-hand Sanger vehicles or substantially exact copies thereof to introduce tableau wagons to the American parade scene.

The second float on record was on that Howes 1864 show then titled Howes European. It stayed with that show (later retitled Great European after Howes sold out to the Flatfoots) through 1873 when, after being listed in a sale advertisement that appeared in the New York Clipper in January of that year, further references to it vanish. They called this one the Chariot of Titania, Queen of the Fairies, whom the mythologists identify as the spouse of Oberon.

#### THE JOHN ROBINSON SET

Not to be outdone, the John Robinson Show had a pair of floats in 1872, representing both Titania and her spouse—one being pulled by a 16-pony hitch, and the other, by a string of eight. Because of the overlapping of dates, neither of these could have been bought off the Great European. Either of them could have been the one that possibly was made from the top of the Golden Horse Bandwagon (ref: THE TELESCOPING TABLEAUS, pages 2 and 3). At least, no references have yet been found that would prove that the wagon remained intact after 1869, which would discredit the story about its being disassembled. The Robinson Show evidently had groups of these floats at two different times. The first group may have originated as early as 1865 if any credulousness can be allowed the show's advertisement in a St. Louis newspaper. The evidence does not begin to become conclusive until 1872 with the information related above from a Cincinnati paper. This is further substantiated by an 1875 account from Columbus, Ohio, where the number in the group was placed at four.

According to a news item in an 1889 Clipper, a new set was being built for the show by a Cincinnati wagon builder. The show's 1891 courier identified these by name as Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, Old Woman in the Shoe, Aladdin, and Sinbad the Sailor. By way of confirmation, the Louisville paper commented that the parade was tailed by "... diminutive chariots almost without end." Among the items offered by Robinson in a large surplus property sale advertised in the Clipper for December 3, 1892, were a calliope, a giraffe, and five pony floats, namely, Cinderella, Jack the Giant Killer, Robinson Crusoe, Liberty, and St. George and the Dragon. Since only one of those on the sale list (Cinderella) agree with the 1891 courier list, we might be correct in assuming that the show had a total of nine. At least, this conjecture would fit into my next hypothesis which, while being the most explainable of any of the possible transfers, is admittedly without sufficient proof.

#### THE RINGLING BROS. SET

According to information published by the Ringlings in their composite route book (1882-1914), they purchased the giraffe and the calliope from the Robinson ad. Since the Ringling Show had a Robinson Crusoe, a Red Riding Hood, and a Jack the Giant Killer, as evidenced by the photographs (nos. 2, 3, and 4) supposedly taken in 1900, it is possible that these may also have been acquired at the Robinson sale. However, all of the photographic coverage that we have of the Ringling floats only span the years 1900 to 1901, a situation that would tend to discount the probability of this



particular transaction. It would be less of a conjecture to assume that the Red Riding Hood and Jack the Giant Killer offered for sale by Seibel Brothers of Watertown, Wisconsin, in a March, 1904, Billboard ad were ex-Ringling equipment.

#### HOWES GREAT LONDON

The year 1871 marks the introduction of the first float of which we definitely have pictures, but only because the earliest surviving photo was made fully fifteen years later. Howes Great London Circus, the second Howes show framed with European parade equipment, opened that year. Included in the imported parade wagons were the big Elephant and Globe Tableaus (ref: THE TELESCOPING TABLEAUS, pages 4, 5, and 6) and the pony tableau which I have labeled the Howes Dragon (photo no. 1). The very excellent lithographs and other advertising matter used by that show definitely fix this association. This float was sold with the Howes Show to James A. Bailey, et al, late in 1878 and remained with the Bailey-controlled shows until they were sold to the Ringlings. In this interval, it was integral with the large group on Barnum & London, later Barnum & Bailey. The Ringlings retained this particular vehicle after they sold off most of their parade equipment and used it in some of the Ringling-Barnum specs through 1937. There was also a Cinderella wagon on Howes Great London, but it is quite definite that this was a small coach.

#### THE BARNUM & BAILEY SET

By far the easiest to trace is the story of the seven that were built for Barnum & London in the middle 1880's. These seven, together with the older Howes Dragon, made a total of eight for that show. The first two of the seven, Santa Claus and The Old Woman in the Shoe, were made in 1883 as evidenced by the special lithographs that were made up for each of them. Between 1886 and 1888, the set was completed with the addition of Mother Goose, Bluebeard, Sinbad the Sailor, Cinderella, and Red Riding Hood. The special two-sheet lithograph, circa 1889 (photo no. 5) indicated that there were two others—Sleeping Beauty and Robinson Crusoe. However, none of the considerable news coverage about this set that would be contemporary with the lithograph, including a special route book issued for the 1889 winter season in London, ever mentions other than the eight. This, together with the entire absence of photographs of the Beauty and Crusoe, has led me to conclude that these two were never built.

The eight stayed with the show until the second European trip of 1898-1902 when three were left behind. This fact can be ascertained from the inventory of equipment compiled on the occasion of the sale of the show by Mr. Bailey to Barnum & Bailey, Ltd. (ref: my 1957 pamphlet, THE AFFAIRS OF JAMES A. BAILEY, pages 5 and 16). This inventory listed five pony floats as a group, and it was necessary to examine the European parade pictures to determine that these were Cinderella, Mother Goose, Bluebeard, Red Riding Hood, and the Howes Dragon.

Photographs 6, 7, 8, and 9 are believed to be a part of the large set of correlative pictures taken in Bridgeport about 1903, soon after the show returned from its five-year European tour. One of these is the only one that we have of Sinbad the Sailor and two of them are the latest that we have of Bluebeard and Red Riding Hood. From then on, all traces of these three disappear. The Old Woman in the Shoe turns up next in a picture of the Ringling re-issued Forepaugh-Sells Show of 1910-11, and it is possible that some of the others were also there. In 1912, photographs of the Ringling parade show the Shoe and Cinderella; and it is probable that these two and perhaps Mother Goose and Santa Claus were with this show off and on through 1918. In any event, these four had to end up with the show property stored in Bridgeport rather than with that left in Baraboo after Ringling-Barnum discontinued the parade.

There they remained until 1927 when they were purchased by Fred Buchanan, together with several other wagons, including the Twin Hemisphere Bandwagon, the Barnum & Bailey calliope with the big horn and clown carvings, the Barnum & Bailey hippo den, for his Robbins Brothers Circus.

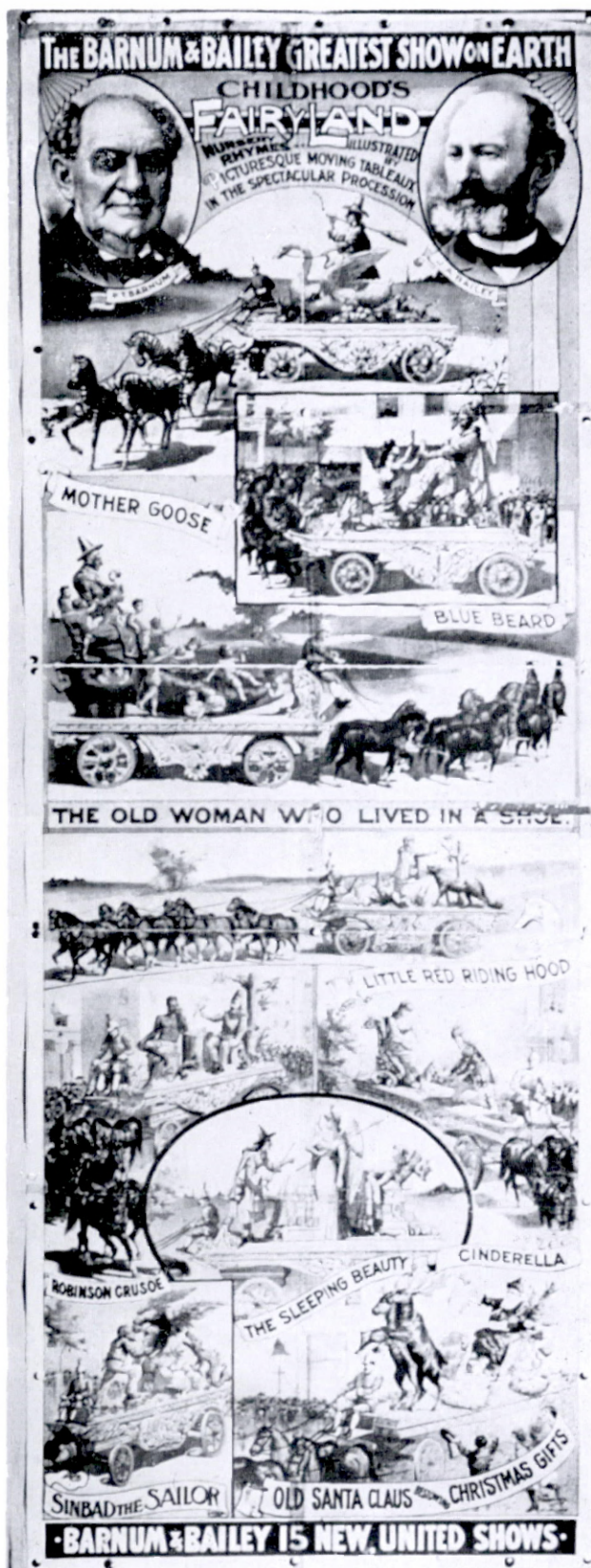


Photo No. 5—Barnum & Bailey Lithograph, circa 1889. Author's photograph by courtesy of Harold Dunn.





Photo No. 6—Sinbad the Sailor, made for Barnum & London 1886-88. Princeton University Library Photograph.



Photograph No. 7—Bluebeard, made for Barnum & London 1886-88. Princeton University Library Photograph.



Photo No. 8—Santa Claus, new on Barnum & London 1883. Princeton University Library Photograph.

The winterquarters for this show was in Granger, Iowa. After the purchase, the Robbins Show was on 30 cars through mid-season 1930. About this time, the depression was beginning to make itself felt, and ten cars were cut off and returned to Granger; and it is probable that the four floats were included. The show, being mortgaged to William P. Hall, was brought onto the Hall Farm at Lancaster, Missouri, at the end of the season. In 1931, it limped the season on 15 cars and returned to Lancaster. This left the four floats in Granger until a Christmas parade unit was formed sometime between 1930 and 1932, the tour of this unit terminating in Lancaster. However, Santa Claus was not with this promotion and was left in Granger where it rotted away. The Shoe, Cinderella, and Goose remained at the Hall Farm until the fall of 1935 when Jess Adkins, one of the owners of the Cole Brothers Circus that had just completed its first season, bought them with several carloads of former Robbins property. They were on the Cole Show in 1936 and for most of the subsequent years through 1950. I am deeply indebted to William Woodcock for most of the information in this paragraph.

I have chosen my illustrations from a variety of sources in order to show three of the four sets of wheels that were, in turn, on some of these floats. I could have used the complete set of pictures made at the Barnum & Bailey quarters which also showed the Goose, Red Riding Hood, and the Shoe on plain 16-spoke wheels. Instead, I have shown the Goose and Red Riding Hood with their original 12-spoke sunburst wheels and the Shoe on wheels such as were on it, the Goose, and Cinderella when they were on Cole Brothers Circus between 1936 and 1940. When the Cole Show played Los Angeles in 1940, they purchased a lot of used solid-tire truck wheels which they hauled back to Louisville quarters and refitted the entire show for 1941. While this refitting detracted from the appearance of the floats, this measure was forced on the show since steel rim wheels were rapidly becoming taboo everywhere, because they were too rough on modern street surfaces. I understand that the Circus World Museum, who now have the Shoe and the Goose, are seeking to obtain some more suitable wheels. Even though the Barnum & Bailey quarters pictures were made in 1902, the 12-spoke sunburst wheels were done away with before the European tour. Also, we can only assume that all of the floats had sunburst wheels, since we only have pictures of the Shoe, Goose, and Red Riding Hood so equipped.

When Cole Brothers Circus was in financial trouble following the disastrous 1938 season, the late Terrell Jacobs acquired the Cinderella Float. He refitted it with 1930 vintage spoked automobile wheels that carried small high pressure tires. With the spokes decked out with sunbursts, the float's appearance was not as drastically affected as the two that remained with the Cole Show. Jacobs retained Cinderella through several of his financial crises, but in recent years it has become "lost," perhaps being hidden by someone who is



Photo No. 9—Cinderella, made for Barnum & London 1886-88. Princeton University Library Photograph.





Photo No. 10—Mother Goose, made for Barnum & London 1886-88. Chester Photo Service Photograph.

fearful that others may have a prior legal claim on it. Let's hope that it re-appears within a decent interval after the statute of limitations expires.

#### THE SELLS BROTHERS SET

Considering the rather liberal amount of photographic coverage that is available on both the Sells Brothers and the Forepaugh-Sells circuses, it is surprising that a few pictures of the Sells floats have not survived. All that we have to base the existence of this set on are the circa 1891 lithograph (photo no. 13), a route book reference, and a few newspaper comments. The Sells 1891 route book lists drivers for Mother Goose, Santa Claus, Red Riding Hood, Robinson Crusoe, Bluebeard, and Cinderella, but not for the Old Woman in the Shoe that is also in the group pictorially represented in the lithograph. One wonders what subsequently became of them, because they are not mentioned in either of the comparably concise route books for 1892 or 1893. Nor have I ever found a single other reference in my newspaper file searches on the Sells Show.

While I realized too late that I was not giving proper attention to the local paper comments of the Forepaugh-Sells Circus when I was making my rounds in these files, I have recently found an 1898 reference in Columbus, Ohio, that mentions Red Riding Hood and Cinderella in a clearly described parade account. Later, in 1904, a Philadelphia newspaper counts four pony floats in the parade but makes no attempt to identify them. However, the only one listed in the catalog compiled for the sale of this show, that was held in January, 1905 (ref: THE AFFAIRS OF JAMES A.

BAILEY, page 16), was Cinderella. If there were four in Philadelphia, the other three might have been those which Mr. Bailey did not sell to Barnum & Bailey, Ltd., i. e., Santa Claus, Sinbad the Sailor, and Bluebeard which, conjecturing further, could have been loaned by Bailey to the Forepaugh-Sells and with-

drawn before the sale. Since the Bailey-controlled interests would at that time hold two Cinderellas, the one sold at the Forepaugh-Sells sale probably was the residue of the original Sells set.

In a Billboard advertisement of March, 1906, this same Cinderella is offered for sale by one Hugh Harrison of Columbus, Ohio. The fact that it was the same identical float is determinable by noting that all of the other show property offered in the same ad agrees with many of the items in the Forepaugh-Sells 1905 catalog. Actually, this catalog is proving to be more valuable to us researchers than it was to the prospective bidders; because after Mr. Bailey bid in the whole show at the auction, no one else there had any reason to have one. It is not known whether this Harrison was a dealer or an agent engaged by the show owners to dispose of the surplus property. If I may be allowed to momentarily swing off on one tangent, I can also record that the old Forepaugh Cleopatra Barge (ref: my 1959 pamphlet, THE GREAT FOREPAUGH SHOW) was also offered at the same time. From this ad, we find that it was 20 feet long and that it could have been bought then for \$100.00.

While on the Sells subject, mention should be made that in 1875 the show advertised that they carried a Queen Mab's Fairy Chariot; but no confirmation has been found on this. However, the Sells Show was very small in those days and gathered only meager publicity in the newspapers.

#### THE FOREPAUGH ACCUMULATION

Except for the mention in the 1878 route book of a pony cart, a vehicle of



Photo No. 11—Red Riding Hood, made for Barnum & London 1886-88. Chester Photo Service Photograph.





Photo No. 12—Old Woman in the Shoe, new on Barnum & London in 1883. Photograph taken on Cole Brothers Circus in 1936 by Chalmer Condon.

doubtful eligibility for our classification, Forepaugh's first known pony float appeared in 1881 when an Oberon Fairy Chariot, allegedly built by Sanger Brothers of England, was listed in a full-page ad that appeared in the Washington (D.C.) Evening Star. Because this ad has proven to be generally reliable in the listing of other pieces of parade equipment, we can concede that this chariot probably existed also. It is doubtful if this is the lead pony vehicle in the lineup of three in the 1888 Worcester, Massachusetts, photograph (no. 14), although the bed of that float resembles British-type construction. Daniel and the Lion, a name garnered from an 1887 parade list issued by the show, would be the most appropriate choice of all of those available if one must be picked now to identify this lead vehicle. The second one in line is the Forepaugh Dragon, better illustrated in photograph no. 15. The last in line is the American Eagle, later described in an 1891, Columbus, Ohio, Dispatch as "a large eagle perched on and guarding the Emblem of the Union." Also listed in the 1887 parade list were the Parisian Eagle and Santa Claus.

The situation that existed in the last years that the Forepaugh Show was owned by Adam Forepaugh might be clarified to a considerable extent if copies of the route books for 1887, 1888, and 1889 could be located. None of these are available in the better-known public or private collections. We do have three successive route books for 1891, 1892, and 1893, while the show was under the Bailey-Cooper-McCaddon management. The Dragon, one of the Eagles, and Santa Claus seemed to have survived this epoch, except that possibly the Santa Claus may have lost its sleigh, if indeed it ever had one, and became the Deer in 1893. When the Forepaugh Show went out on 21 cars in 1894, no pony floats were carried.

#### FLOATS ON OTHER SHOWS

A Reindeer Float appears in a parade mount picture of the Frank A. Robbins New All Feature Shows in the Billboard for September 1, 1906. This one is essentially identical to Barnum & Bailey's Santa Claus, except that the sleigh is missing; and, therefore, this could possibly be the 1893 Forepaugh "Deer." It, together with that of an Eagle, turns up

in a picture of the Robbins Show in a flood that probably occurred in 1905, as the photograph appeared in the Clipper for February 24, 1906. While this picture is too small and indistinct to show much detail on these floats, it is apparent that this Eagle Float is not the Forepaugh Eagle shown in the Worcester parade, even though it is known that the reorganized Frank A. Robbins Show of 1905 obtained some used parade wagons from Bridgeport that were off various Bailey-controlled shows. Nor is it the Eagle shown in photograph no. 16 credited, we hope correctly, to Welsh Brothers, of which nothing else is known.

A set may have existed on the Walter L. Main Circus. In the spring of 1893, the year of the Tyrone railroad wreck in which considerable property was lost, as well as in the year before, articles appearing in the Clipper indicate that the show had three. Another pre-season article in 1894 told that five were expected to replace those lost in the wreck. However, the 1894 route book is silent about this, and the composite, four-page, foldout pictorial in the 1895 route book that illustrated all of the parade equipment does not show a single pony float. On this evidence, I would

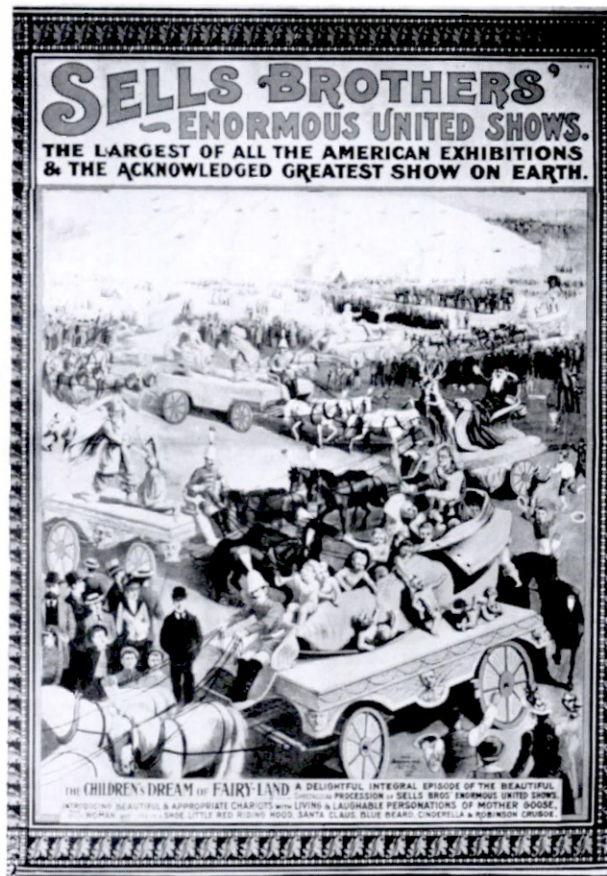


Photo No. 13—Sells Brothers Lithograph, circa 1891. Author's photograph by courtesy of Fred Pfening.



not concede that there were any, especially in the years following the wreck.

A single paragraph will suffice to group together all the others currently known to the author. In October, 1906, a Cinderella was auctioned off on one of the occasions that J. Augustus Jones was selling show property. It is conceivable that this could have been the Forepaugh-Sells float that Hugh Harrison offered for sale the previous spring. In 1888, a Santa Claus (reindeer) float was sold in Saint Louis, Missouri at the sheriff's sale of Doris & Colvin to Messrs. Jukes and McGinley who had intentions of framing a new show; and it is possible that this one and the Robbins Reindeer are the same. The two obscure vehicles remaining to be cataloged are the small Dragon Float mentioned in Yankee Robinson's full-page Clipper advertise-

ment of August 28, 1869, and L. B. Lent's Cynocephalus briefly commented on in 1871 by the Indianapolis News.

#### CREDITS

I wish to thank all of the institutions and individuals whose names appear under the photographs. I again want to

also get his share of the credit for urging me to get on with the story over my reluctance to do a Confucius-type article, because 10,000 honest words could not be written about the subject. It does appear though that this is near the end of the line until some fortunate researcher gets buried under an avalanche of information.

thank Bill Woodcock for considerably more than the paragraph that he practically wrote. In addition, the McCaddon Collection at Princeton, the Hertzberg Collection at San Antonio, Fred Pfening, Tom Parkinson, Otto Schieman, Chappie Fox, the late George Chindahl, Roy Arnold, and George Piercy (my apologies if I have missed anyone) have supplied reference material in the form of documents, photographs, or bits of information that were vital to this effort. Ken Whipple should



Photo No. 14—Forepaugh Parade at Worcester, Mass., in 1888. American Antiquarian Society Photograph.

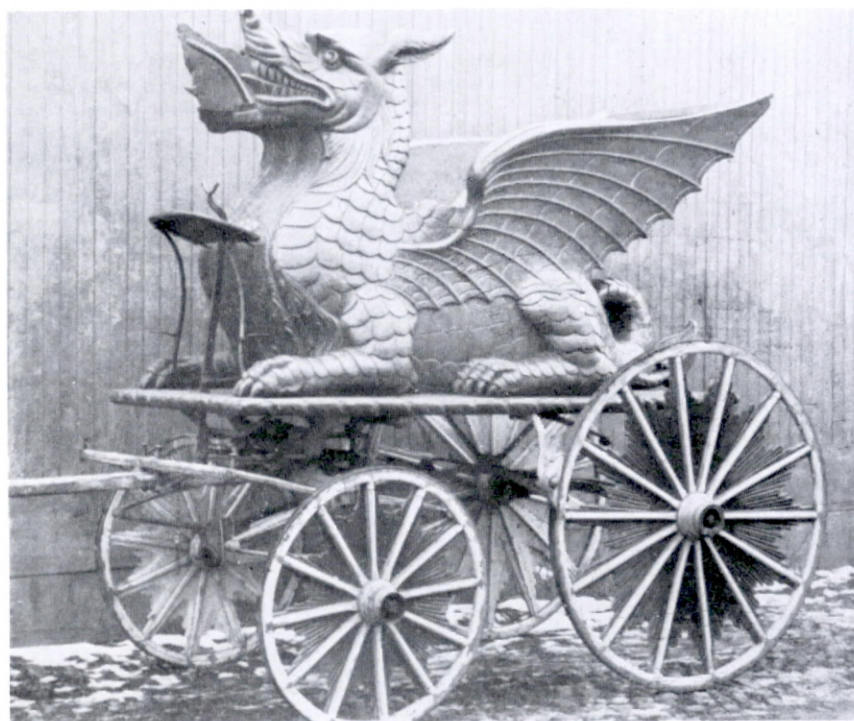


Photo No. 15—Dragon Float from Forepaugh Circus, circa 1888-1893. Princeton University Library Photograph.



# »» Freddie Daw's Three-Ring Letter ««

WINTERQUARTERS

P. O. Box 71

CORAL GABLES 34, FLA.

Dear Friends:

Next to good health, I would certainly nominate for second place, Circus Fans. It is the most wonderful feeling in the world to know that I have them. This page could be devoted alone to just plain down-to-earth thank you for the get well cards, telegrams and long distance phone calls. All makes one feel good inside and a little humble. Thank you everyone—I'll long remember you. Big help came from Bill Sadler who so graciously did the editing last issue. Heartfelt thanks Bill.

September is the month for the Connie Clausen book. Those of you who still have not ordered remember, "I Love You Honey But The Seasons Over" is a classic. The story unfolds as to what happens behind the scenes as witnessed by the author, a spec girl, chosen by John Ringling North who advised Connie, "Forget talent, you've got a beautiful face." This non-fiction deserves a place in your circus collection. I'll even include a 1/4" scale figure of Connie with each order. Price \$3.95 postpaid.

We are again caught up with the T.T. elephants. The Connie spec figure caused quite a sensation showing the true size of the elephant and figure. We can ship now—elephants 50¢ each — already painted. Add 25¢ postage. If you wish, send for a picture sheet or see last Bandwagon issue.

After RBBB left the new Venice Winterquarters and made the trek to Omaha, they ran into trouble. Charlie Day writes, the opening show had wind, rain and an open showplace with nobody in it, in fact, so much wind that they had to take down the costume tent to save it.

We are stocked up fine on the following Bands and can ship them right out—no waiting.

Big Spec Band (Marching) --- 1/4" scale  
Clown Band (Seated) ----- 1/4" scale  
Big Show Band (Seated) ----- 1/4" scale  
Side Show Band (Standing) --- 1/4" scale  
Bandwagon Band (Seated) --- 1/4" scale  
All figures 60¢ each unpainted. Add 25¢ postage on all orders. If confused, write for list. Free to CHS, CMB and CFA members.

We promised and here it is!

## BUILDING A MINIATURE CIRCUS

The next time you attend a circus note the large number of wagons, tents and railroad cars it uses. You will wonder why so much equipment is required and how they ever figure out what they need and what goes into each piece of equipment. The whole thing seems very complex and you may say to yourself "Gosh, I wouldn't want the job of deciding what goes where and how much of each."

But that is exactly what you will have to do in order to plan your miniature circus and it's really very easy. A real

circus built up around the number of acts it has and the size of its menagerie. This determines what wagons are needed to carry the show and in turn decides how many flat cars and stock cars are needed. It also will show how many people are necessary and how many passenger cars are needed to carry them.

Then it also gives the owner an idea of how large a cook tent the show needs and how big a horse tent, how big a menagerie tent, side show tent and the dressing room.

You see, all these are related and once they decide on their acts and animals it's easy. Well let's tackle your show. We'll take an imaginary circus and try to figure out what equipment you will need and in this way try to give you an idea of how to go about it.

Of course, your final show will necessarily depend on how much you, yourself, want and how great your interest is. For example there are circus model fans who now own complete miniature circuses of from 30 to 40 cars. This consists of about 100 wagons of varying types.

On the other hand there are fans who have only one or two cars on which they have lavished special care so that each piece is a collector's item.

Let us assume that your show is to be a small railroad one, that is, one which travels by rail and therefore loads all of its equipment on flat cars and its animals in stock cars. We select this type since practically everyone has a model railroad of some type and you can run your circus cars on your layout.

We will say that you plan on having a two ring circus. Therefore your tent will be a three pole tent of about 150 feet wide and 250 feet long. Reduced to actual 1/4" scale this would be a 37 1/2" by 62 1/2".

Now, you will need one Center Pole Wagon, four or five canvas wagons, two or three stake and chain wagons, four or five plank wagons, and three or four baggage wagons. These will carry all of the poles, canvas, seats, seat jacks and stringers, ring sections, stakes, chains and pegs that are required but these will be enough to give the impression of a complete group for the one tent. To carry these wagons you will need five or six flat cars. You've now got your equipment for this portion of the show. Easy, isn't it? . . . Continued next issue.

With Santa Claus Season close at hand, how about the "Circus Kings" by Henry Ringling North for that husband, son or sweetheart. An ideal gift to go along with the new bathrobe, slippers and pipe Xmas morn. Shipped p.p. \$4.95. And speaking of Henry R. N. the following:

Via Antonio Gramsci,  
Roma, Italy

Dear Mr. Daw:

How kind and thoughtful of you to

write about my book.

Needless to say, I am pleased at your enjoyment and gratified by your sales.

Kindest regards,

Henry Ringling North

Only a few left. Postcard size Decal from R.B.B.B. Old Sarasota Winterquarters. "A Cat Show" and "Elephant - Spec girl" Decals are 5"x3" Decals - both for \$1.00 p.p.

Here are top sellers on anyone's Circus book list.

I Love You Honey But The Seasons Over—Clausen ----- \$3.95 p.p.  
Circus Kings—Henry Ringling North ----- 4.95 p.p.  
History of Circus in America—Chindahl ----- 5.00 p.p.  
Hold That Tiger—Mabel Stark ----- 2.50 p.p.  
Center Ring—Taylor (Was \$3.50) ----- 1.75 p.p.  
Circus—Staub (London) 1 copy ----- 4.00 p.p.  
Circus Clowns On Parade—Cook ----- 2.00 p.p.  
Grimaldi - King of Clowns—Findlater 1 copy ----- 3.00 p.p.  
Circus Bands Booklet—Braathen ----- 1.00 p.p.  
Ringling Program 1958 --- 1.00 p.p.  
Ringling Program 1959 --- 1.00 p.p.  
Ringling Program 1960 --- 1.00 p.p.  
If I ran The Circus—Dr. Seuss (For Children) 1 copy -- 2.95 p.p.

Paul Toepp CHS can give you collectors a hand on recent articles in magazines. Says Paul, "Any readers interested I'll be happy to cue them to the issues they should seek in second hand magazine marts. Also have a few swapping copies on hand, as well as other magazine items in large quantity. Librarians call this sort of stuff "fugitive materials."

Write Paul at 16180 Wyoming Ave., Detroit 21, Michigan.

If at anytime you are driving through Brookville, Pa. don't miss Charlie Bowdish. The greatest miniature display known around the world. Charlie's sister Alice, plays a big part in this renown exhibition. Right, the Circus is included.

Don't forget my Xmas Cards. Artist: Kay Goff Payne.

Cards are 25¢ each including envelope. Size of cards when folded 7"x5 1/2". Inside printing reads "Seasons Greetings". Done in four colors and subjects are:

Boy Sleeping In Circus Trunk  
Santa Claus Clown Sitting Elephant  
Clown Santa Taking Tickets At Main Entrance  
Old Circus Wagon In Snow

Minimum order \$1.00—assorted if you wish.

1/4" Figure Orchids from the following: Tom Gibson, Bill Dykes, Maurice Allaire and Joseph Miller.

ADVERTISEMENT

The BANDWAGON



# »» Freddie Daw's Three-Ring Letter ««

WINTERQUARTERS

P. O. Box 71

CORAL GABLES 34, FLA.

I need only one more member for the CHS to complete my promise for the 25 new members that I pledged. With the CHS convention over, I am really sticking my big fat neck out—101 new members for '61! And I'll Get 'Em!!

CMB'er Leland Antes, Austin, Texas was the first one to take a chance on the 1/2" scale arena that I goofed on recently. Leland very happy with the merchandise. Here are the measurements: 15 3/8"x 4 3/8", including ring and curb, metal arena, metal passageway, teeter board and 2 pedestals. Regular price \$9.00. Out they go \$7.00 postpaid. If you're not happy with them, send back and receive full refund or credit. Fair enough?

Remember, arena already painted. Leland also added his name to the list wanting F. D. to make 1/2" scale figures. This could be the No. 1 project for '61.

Please note change of address. This enables faster service on orders but you can still use old address for personal mail.

I guess by now everyone knows that Emmett Kelly is very much alive. Dan Rohrer, Jr. wrote me of the Kelly obituary in the Eagle Magazine. Seems they were jumping the gun on Emmett. Pity the poor writer of the article!!

"THEY FLY THROUGH THE AIR!!" They have arrived—are in stock—ready to ship in all their glory. MARY JANE the Trapeze star. ARTHUR and SALLY the Flyers and BURT the Catcher. They turned out great and we are really proud of them. \$1.00 each figure Unpainted. Add 25¢ postage. Order by name. Want a picture? Send me your request.

Don Smith, Detroit Michigan and wife Martha really caught the sawdust this summer. They checked in and saw the following: Polack, Davenport and Detroit Shrine Circus, Mills, King, Beers-Barnes, Cristiani, Beatty-Cole, Famous Cole, Ringling-Barnum and Bailey and the "Majestic Showboat" on Ohio River. Also Paul A. Miller and the Bob Atterbury shopping center circuses and the Eastland Center Circus in Detroit.

The Circus Wagon Shadowbox can be purchased 3 ways; Just the Front Wagon frame already painted and you make your own box and shelf, \$3.00; Front Wagon Frame painted and the Box and Shelf unpainted, \$5.00; or complete Frame and Box, painted \$6.95. All p.p.

Don't fail to drop me a postcard if you would like to have my complete Circus list. Ten pages of interesting Circuiana.

Earl Gore, Indianapolis caught the Clyde Beatty-Cole show in Kokomo, Indiana and it was wonderful. The equipment is still in fine shape after the long season run through Canada and the band is nothing short of sensational for only 8 men. They sound like a 15 piece circus band and each and every one are

real musicians and work hard. Boom-boom the drummer—Leader is truly a marvelous performer. He not only ranks as a first class percussionist but has proven to the circus world that it is possible for a drummer to lead the band and do an outstanding job.

Dear Freddie Daw:

Please help me. About three years ago I was a bearded lady in the circus. I recently married, but have considered growing my beard and going back to the circus. My husband objects. I think he is acting like a child over the whole matter. Don't you?

Mrs. Wanta Beard

Dear Mrs. Wanta Beard:

Gee, he is a puzzling case. What has he got against circuses, anyhow?

I have the cutest little plastic elephant you have ever seen. Her name is Elly. A slight motion and she bobs her head. Set her in with your other 1/4" bulls and visitors will be startled when she moves. 50¢ each—6 for \$2.75—1 doz. for \$5.00 p.p. Great little gift for Xmas. Surprise your Circus friends.



A very neat Circus Letterhead came from Bob Russell, Elkhart, Ind. Bob took a circus wagon print and overprinted his 1/4" show inside. First I've seen like this.

Leo Ryan, Grand Rapids, Mich. reminded me that I said the following in past 3 Ring Letters: "Ringlings would return to the rails and that they would use black ink in 1959," and that "Trevor Bale would get the Cat Act before the '60 season was over."

Eric Wilson CFA Tent No. 80 favored me with a letterhead of their Buffalo Bill Tent. Jerry Booker of San Francisco did the art work and truly it is one of the finest I have ever seen. That's right . . . William F. Cody in all his glory.

Harry Will, my friend of long standing here in Miami visited us a short time ago and we were looking at the Marcus-Daw Circus wagons. Harry said that he would like to join the building winterquarters, so I armed him with bass wood and hardware and a pat on the back. The results were amazing. Harry did a Rhino cage, Hippo den and the new Gorilla cage wagon. We're truly proud of his work. In case you are interested, all above wag-

ons completely built to order. Unpainted \$9.95 p.p. Insured and the Gorilla wagon includes the animal. All orders on above will be taken but I would prefer that no payment be sent until I notify you that wagon is built and ready for shipment, then you may remit.

On the subject of wagons, here are two (2) Wardie Jay rolling stock ready for shipment. One (1) Spectacle Wagon 1/4" guage and One (1) Cage Wagon 1/4" guage—Price unpainted: \$8.95 each postpaid and insured.

Gaylord Hartman, President of the Circus Model Builders wrote me recently, said the V.I.P. "After having seen your band figures at our display by our Terrell Jacobs Ring, I find them to be really 1/4" scale. You are to be complimented upon your interest towards our fellow modelers."

Xmas Gift Special: Elephants at The Circus by Curry, \$1.00. Souvenir Folders: No. 1 Ringling Animals, No. 2 Ringling Winterquarters, \$1.00. Slip a buck in an envelope and get both!! That's right \$1.00 p.p.

Good news from Eddie Gropengieser—He sends his deepest thanks to all. He has received mail from all over the country. The 3 Ring Letter thanks all of you too.

Birthday Greetings: September: Kent Ghirard, Wilbert Bender, Percy May, James Johnson, Jr., E. W. Cripps, Lloyd Weygint, Harvey Frantz, Allen Tracy, Almond Knight, Richard Deptula and August Dohert, John Yancey; October: Enrique Perez, Kirk Kellogg, Hayes Ganiard, Eric Wilson, Mrs. Percy May, James Malfatto, Allan Kirk, Frank Goldquist, Daniel Rohrer, Jr. Phillip Starr, John Whitfield and Edward Lester.

My H. O. idol, Paul West, edits the four page copy of the Col. Harry Thomas Ring. It's a monthly by the members and well done. Maybe Paul would like to swap some 1/4" stuff for some Wardie-Jay 1/8" or H. O. that I have. Read it again, Paul. That's right !!!

Clarence Pfeffer CMB, 1021 Ash St. Johnstown, Pa. still has copies of the Terrell Jacobs Biography left and will pass them on for \$1.00 each. This is a handy little collector's item.

Memo to Mr. K. of Russia and Mr. C. of Cuba: If you ever sat up all night waiting for the circus to arrive, if you ever carried water for the elephants, if you ever fell in love with the beautiful Equestrienne, if you ever got wonderfully sick on pink lemonade and candy floss—then you would know that we Circus Fans have known that there is a connection between fun and freedom. We believe in happiness; and so we shall always have a warm spot in our memory for men who, have added to it in big or little ways. This is the American Way . . . This is the ONLY Way . . .

Meet me in the front yard,

Freddie Daw



# Minutes of the Circus Historical Society Twenty-first Annual Convention

## South Bend, Indiana, August 12, 1960 — Pick-Oliver Hotel

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by President Pfening. It was moved by Sverre Braathen and seconded by Ollie Miller that the reading of the 1959 minutes be dispensed with, inasmuch as they had been published in the Bandwagon. It was so ordered.

The Treasurer's annual report was read, and showed a balance of \$1,676.74 as of June 30, 1960. Don Smith moved and Bette Leonard seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted. It was so ordered. (Treasurer's report published in the Sept.-Oct. Bandwagon).

President Pfening gave a report outlining the activities of the society for the past year and pointed out that the Circus Historical Society has expanded into the International field. This branch to be called CHS International. Mr. Edward A. A. Graves of London, England is Director of this branch. President Pfening also brought up the matter of Freddie Daw's double spread ad in the Bandwagon, informing the society that this is strictly paid advertising, and is on a one year trial basis. President Pfening informed the convention that there had been some criticism about "derogatory remarks" and letters by some "fans" in regard to circuses on the road. He suggested that if we cannot say something good—say nothing.

The only matter of old business to come up was in regard to the buttons or pins to be used to identify CHS mem-

bers on the lot. This matter had been taken up at the 1959 convention in Baraboo and the Secretary had been empowered to proceed in the matter. However, because of some discussion in regard to size and design, the matter had to be brought up again at this convention. The convention decided to have a button larger than a half dollar to contain the name of the organization and a picture of an animal. A vote was taken and the majority favored such. (These buttons have been made and will soon be distributed.)

There being no other old business, new business was in order.

George Piercy suggested that wives of members be admitted to the CHS as Associate Members. It was brought to the attention of the Convention that such an idea was tried and did not prove satisfactory. There was a good deal of discussion about the matter and the consensus of opinion was that the wives should share their husband's membership, and the husbands were to encourage their wives to share their interests in CHS. It was further decided that the wives might buy for 25¢ a CHS button if they so desired. John Arter moved that the Associate Member idea be tabled for the present and Ed Hagedon seconded it. It was so ordered.

Paul Van Pool extended an invitation to have the 1961 convention on the Gil Gray Circus. A resolution was presented

to the President that he give serious consideration to this invitation and that he report to the members his decision. Sverre Braathen suggested that if this invitation were accepted a special ceremony honoring Circus Bandsmen from the Southwestern area of the U. S. be planned.

A discussion was held regarding a bus to run from the Hotel to the lot the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. circus was to show. It was pointed out that such an expense had not been included in the Convention registration; that public transportation was available to within three blocks of the lot; and that those who had cars were very willing to aid in transporting to the circus any member desiring it.

Mel Olsen expressed appreciation to the Editor of the Bandwagon and her assistants as well as to President Pfening for their efforts in improving the format of the magazine as well as for their untiring leadership of the Society.

Greetings were then read from: Bob Taber, Paul Luckey, Don Francis, Bill Woodcock, John Kelley, the Cotter family, Jim Parker, Eric Wilson, Orlo Rahn, Edward A. A. Graves, Jim Hassan, Jack LaPearl, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Suesz, Ted LaVelda, and Herb Walters.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

ROBERT C. KING  
Secretary, CHS

### 131 MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTENDED THE 1960 CHS CONVENTION

#### ENGLAND

Jack Niblett

#### FLORIDA

Dr. and Mrs. H. Chester Hoyt  
and Family  
Col William Narrimore and Family

#### ILLINOIS

Steve Seipp  
Dr. and Mrs. Conley  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bauman  
Francis Graham  
Rayna Gustafson  
Mr. and Mrs. John Zweifel  
Ken Fishleigh  
Ronnie Miller  
Alex Irwin  
Whitey Savage  
Paul Ingrassia  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoffman  
Norm Borger  
Tom Parkinson  
Dick Carpenter and Family  
Tom Carroll  
Bernie Miller

#### INDIANA

Bob King  
Agnes King  
Ann King  
Ollie and Midge Miller  
Bob Raupfer  
Mr. and Mrs. Chalmer Condon  
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Scheiman

Raymond White  
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Haussman  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hagedon  
Arthur Coleman  
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Harman  
Mr. and Mrs. George Piercy  
Gene Weeks  
Mr. and Mrs. Mel Olsen  
Floyd Gettinger  
Ferroll Meeker  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mathes  
Marion Lewis

#### IOWA

John Holley

#### KANSAS

Bette Leonard  
Julian Jimenez  
Mr. and Mrs. John Marietta  
and sons

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Ed Delaney  
Dave Mullaney

#### MICHIGAN

Mr. and Mrs. Don Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Jonny Vogelsang  
John Walker

#### MINNESOTA

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Ahlberg

#### MISSOURI

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Van Pool

#### NEW JERSEY

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Brown

#### OHIO

Eddie Jackson  
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bender  
Jerry Harshman

Myron Gandee  
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Conover  
Albert Conover  
Jack Sweetman  
Chuck Burns  
Fred Pfening  
Bob Senhauser  
Norman Senhauser  
Ed Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Don DeWeese  
Jack Lampton  
Mr. and Mrs. William Lerche  
John Boyle  
Benjamin Kronenberg

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grover and  
Family  
Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Bateman

#### TEXAS

Homer DeGolyer  
Leonard Farley  
Tommy Randolph

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Alex Garrettson  
Mr. and Mrs. John Arter

#### WISCONSIN

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Van Epps  
Mitch Gorrow  
Mr. and Mrs. Sverre Braathen  
Jim Kieffer and parents  
Mr. and Mrs. John Guill  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Higgins  
Hallie Olstad  
Chappie Fox  
Clark Wilkinson

TOTAL ----- 131



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# TREASURER'S REPORT

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## CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 1, 1959 TO JUNE 30, 1960

CASH ON HAND JULY 1, 1959 ----- \$1,373.16

### RECEIPTS

Dues -----	\$2,110.00	
Subscriptions to Bandwagon -----	181.00	
Bandwagon Ads -----	226.00	
Christmas Bandwagon Ads -----	116.00	
Old Bandwagons Sold -----	148.90	
Forty Horses Receipts -----	168.40	
Kelly-Miller Bandwagon Receipts -----	129.15	
Baraboo Convention Receipts -----	508.00	
Miscellaneous Receipts -----	30.50	3,617.95
		<hr/>
		\$4,991.11

### DISBURSEMENTS

Bandwagon Printing -----	\$1,429.91	
Bandwagon Cuts -----	484.14	
Bandwagon Postage -----	130.16	
Baraboo Convention Expense -----	399.65	
Stamps and Other Postage -----	274.19	
Bank Charges -----	5.81	
Envelopes, Bandwagon, Roster, etc. -----	222.42	
Roster -----	200.00	
Membership Certificates -----	19.25	
Expense "Forty Horses" -----	100.89	
Flowers -----	22.90	
Kelly-Miller Expense -----	17.00	
Long Distance -----	2.75	
Miscellaneous -----	5.30	3,314.37
		<hr/>

BALANCE JUNE 30, 1960 ----- \$1,676.74





LITHOS ON THE WALL

## CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM

Crowds and Attractions Greater Than Last Year

Before the gates of the Circus World Museum were closed last fall over 50,000 people had viewed the many exhibits. This year with an early May opening the season will easily see over twice that number visiting the historic site.

Around the first of this year our own Vice President C. P. (Chappie) Fox became Museum Director. Throughout the winter he rearranged the fine displays from last year and made contacts that brought a large number of additional displays to Baraboo for 1960.

The moving and arrival of the Ringling-Barnum train has been reported in the Bandwagon. However, since that story appeared actual railroad track has been laid on the Museum grounds and the rail cars have been placed on the tracks.

The Ringling-Barnum Advance Car now remodeled, houses the Moeller collection as well as a permanent office for Mr. Fox. The two flat cars, the stock and the sleeper have been repainted and repaired. Runs are attached to a flat car and a number of wagons have been loaded on the flats, simulating an arrival scene.

The big top pole wagon from Cole Bros. Circus is also on display near the train, which is placed across the river from the main buildings.

Another new addition is the full sized replica of P. T. Barnum's Museum. This display is in a new tent fronted with what appears to be a three deck banner line. The banners are some of the finest this reporter has seen.

The Paul Kelly animals have been at the museum all summer. A lion act and an elephant number with other acts have been presented free of additional charge throughout the day. Other lead stock from the Kelly farm in Peru, Indiana is

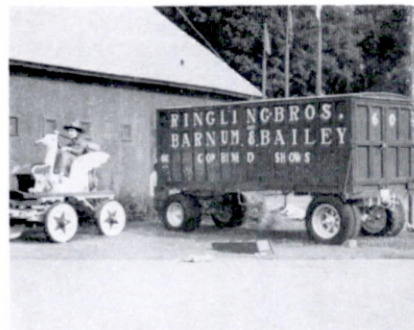
on a picket line in the menagerie tent with the small pony cages of animals. A lion is also on display in the repainted R-B cage, placed in the R-B marquee.

Perhaps the flashiest addition is the tremendous "daub" of lithos that has been posted on the back wall of the main building. Some of these are 6 and 8 sheets and larger. The Gentry paper caught my eye, as well as an unusual Tim McCoy Wild West litho. In addition to these Harper Joy has donated a group of fine one sheets that are framed. CHS Frank Van Epps has also placed a large number of very fine one sheets on display. Frank's paper is placed around the outside of the Zweifel Bros. Miniature Circus. CHS Johnny Zweifel's model show has been moved to the larger building this year.

The baggage wagon from the Forepaugh-Sells show has been completely restored and painted and is placed near the main entrance. A couple of old Hagenbeck-Wallace side show banners are also new this year. CHS Tom Parkinson has placed a number of lithos from foreign circuses in the museum.

Much new land has been acquired and additional exhibits will be moved into the new area, probably next year. In August of 1960 the museum purchased the small Adams-Seils elephant, which was worked after the Paul Kelly stock left. The baby bull and the caged animals give the museum a very acceptable menagerie.

The Circus Historical Society lends its support to the Circus World Museum in many ways. The following CHS members are active in the operation of the attraction. John M. Kelley, President of CWM, Inc., Clark Wilkinson is treasurer, Tom Parkinson, Dr. H. H. Conley, Frank Van Epps and Fred D. Pfening, Jr. are directors. Paul Luckey assists Director Fox in



RBB&B WAGON AND FLOAT



SIDE SHOW



P. T. BARNUM'S SIAMESE TWINS

the office. Many CHS members have visited the museum in 1960 and received personally guided tours from Chappie. All have reported that they were greatly impressed with the additions and improvements made in 1960. But as Chappie says "you ain't seen nothing yet folks."

Fred D. Pfening, Jr.



# MUSEUM MUSINGS

## CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM

New displays for this year include, the Adam Forepaugh-Sells Bros. Shows Combined canvas wagon. This wagon has been in the Baraboo area since 1911 when that show last went on the road. It was located on a farm five miles from Baraboo, being used as a corn crib. It is now completely restored and painted bright orange yellow with green lettering which was the color of the wagon originally. The undercarriage is white with red striping.

Our acquisition of Ringling Bros. circus last winter has taken up a great deal of time and money. We have five of the eight wagons completely finished. They are, Giraffe den No. 86, Program wagon No. 60, Stake driver No. 108, Ringstock Trappings No. 137, and cage No. 87.

Four of the five railroad cars are completely repainted and will soon be relettered. The laundry car "Texas" is now being worked on. This car, prior to being laundry car was Ringlings advertising car. Prior to that, advertising car on the Al G. Barnes-Sells Floto Circus and evidence indicates that prior to that it was an advertising car on the John Robinson Circus.

If any readers have a photograph of this advertising car we would like very much to see it as we are interested in painting the John Robinson title on this car.

## HERTZBERG CIRCUS COLLECTION

November 15, 1960 Hertzberg Circus Collection to mark 18th anniversary of its inception on premises of San Antonio Public Library.

San Antonio members of the Circus Historical Society to aid with plans for evening to mark 18th anniversary of the Hertzberg Circus Collection on premises of the San Antonio Public Library. On the committee will be Tom Scaperlanda, Dr. Ralph Hartman, Ray Gerhardt and Leonard V. Farley. A feature of the program which will take place in the collection the evening of November 15th will be the presentation of her sword swallowing act by Mrs. Marvin Smith, last on the Cole title in 1941.

The death of the collector-donor Harry Hertzberg was in the year 1940 and his wishes were followed and his magnificent collection was opened privately in 1942 with such circus notables as Henry Ringling North and the late Fred Bradna among those present.

Invitations will be mailed to friends of the collection including many who have used it as a major source of reference for circus history for the past eighteen years. Another feature of the program for the anniversary celebration will be the showing of documentary motion pictures of circus history from the Tom Scaperlanda collection.

## THE CIRCUS HALL OF FAME

The Circus Hall of Fame enjoys the distinction of being the only Circus Museum in the United States architecturally designed and built to re-capture the nostalgic traditional Circus in all its aspects. To this end, the seven buildings surround a spacious inner arena, complete with 45-foot center poles, a standard tan-bark ring and permanent raised platform, as well as a rig for a flying return number, casting act and high wire rigs, ready to meet the needs of a complete outdoor performance. This is in addition to an indoor arena along the lines of the Continental Circus with flying rings, swinging ladders, trapeze set-up and Spanish Web rig in a setting that is distinctly "circus" with electric organ, lighting effects, and bleacher seats for 600 patrons, all under cover and in use every day of the year.

As one enters the building, he is confronted by the greatest Show Wagon on earth, the famous Two Hemisphere, completely restored and gay with gold leaf in abundance. This is the gift of B. J. Palmer of Davenport, Iowa. Alongside this wagon is a smaller wagon of special interest to circus lovers because it represents an era of the past. Known as a Mud Show Wagon, this relic is a dog and pony Band Wagon of the Sig Sautelle show, presented to the Circus Hall of Fame by Mr. Harold Curtis of Pataskala, Ohio. This is in perfect condition and shares honors with the big one in the glass-encased Gift Shop of the Hall of Fame.

Six additional parade vehicles are on exhibition in the West Building, along with several hand carvings of animals and other figures from the Denzel Wood Carving Shop of Philadelphia in 1867. Included also are blacksmith and harness mementos, a miniature Parade, and 25 restored and re-decorated Sunburst Wheels, reminiscent of the Good Old Days.

Other buildings include some 60,000 square feet of exhibit floor space filled with Circusiana—photos, mementos of circus people, the Coach of Tom Thumb, the Barnum sleigh of Jenny Lind, the bust of Gargantua, two carved figures of the Ubangi, and restored carved figures from old-time circus wagons. Old and rare Lithos and Heralds of many old-time circuses, the Offices and Puppet Theater occupy the North building. The latter holds 24 small Puppet Theaters with figures from many foreign lands—puppets and Punch and Judy figures of English, Italian and early American vintage. Puppet and Punch shows are given daily for the younger visitors.

The performers have special quarters, complete with dressing rooms, lockers, and showers with—get this—hot water in abundance. The Circus atmosphere is further enhanced by 12 Circus Wagons restored and painted with the names of several circuses of the Circus Corporation of America. These, together with a calliope, bring many memories to old-timers.

## RINGLING MUSEUM OF THE CIRCUS

### New Acquisitions at Ringling Museum Of The Circus

Mel Miller, curator of the Ringling Museum of the Circus in Sarasota, reports that for the past six months, much of the activity at the Museum has centered around the dismantling of the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey winterquarters. The Museum has obtained several additional wagons as well as a large amount of wagon hardware which will be used in the restoration of these wagons and others already in the Museum's collection.

Among the new acquisitions is No. 9 Blacksmith wagon which was brought to the Museum intact, along with a quantity of Blacksmith tools and equipment including anvil and forge.

Another addition is the old tailor shop wagon, No. 64, complete with a number of wardrobe trunks and boxes. Mel states that it will appear in the Museum as it did in the backyard augmented by the tailor's sewing machine.

Also added to the Museum's collection were old wooden cookhouse wagon No. 5, No. 61 prop wagon, No. 81 cage wagon (the first aluminum cage wagon built by the Ringling show in 1936) and No. 138, a jack wagon which was put into service to haul much of the hardware and old wagon under-gear to the Museum.

Mel admits that during the past year, he developed a love affair with the Al G. Barnes equipment sitting around quarters and now has saved four wagons from that show—one of which has already been restored and is in beautiful condition. This is the Barnes commissary No. 24. Others in the group are No. 76, the Pad-room wagon, and two prop wagons, No. 99 and No. 48.

According to Mel, there are now twenty wagons in the Ringling Museum collection—all of which were used prior to 1938 and represent horse-drawn equipment.

At present, Mel and his staff are engaged in the work of restoration of the wagons. He states that authenticity is the keynote of the Museum's program and plans call for restoring all of the wagons to either their original condition or to the state when they were best known. All of the steel under-gear and rubber tires of recent RBBB vintage will be replaced with wooden under-gear and wheels, and original colors and designs will be duplicated as closely as possible.

Mel is hopeful that some CHS members may be able to help his restoration efforts with documentary information or photos. If any members have photographs (pre-1938) showing details of the wagons listed—loaded and unloaded—he would be most grateful if you would contact him at the Museum.



# CIRCUS HISTORIANS MEET

By JACK NIBLETT

(Reprinted from the Worlds Fair, August 27, 1960.)



Photo by Don Smith

CHS Members View Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, South Bend, Indiana, August 13, 1960.

Editor's Note: This covers the 1960 CHS Convention at South Bend, very completely. Our thanks to Jack Niblett.

Judged from every viewpoint, the Annual Convention of the Circus Historical Society, which was held at South Bend, Indiana, on August 11, 12 and 13, was an outstanding success.

The Pick-Oliver Hotel was the venue for the Convention and the management provided splendid co-operation. A banner welcomed the members and the Convention rooms were decorated with circus posters, among which I had seen fit to include some British circus lithographs. These, incidentally, met with much admiration and disappeared as if by magic at the close of the Convention.

The first event was the President's Reception. President Fred F. Pfening, Jr. invited us all to join him in a bowl of punch and there was also a large iced cake to delight the inner man. After the Reception Dick Conover gave an illustrated talk entitled "The Influence of the European Circus on the American Circus Parade." Mr. Conover knew his subject well, and there were some wonderful pictures of early Sanger tableaux, wagons and even a shot of the Albert Memorial sculpture which had influenced the early English and American parade wagon builders! After Dick's talk there were many remarkable movies and slides of past and present American circuses. No doubt that the American circus enthu-

siast goes in for moving pictures in a big way!

## BUSINESS MEETING

Friday morning was a free one, but some who knew that the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus was at Benton Harbor, about thirty miles away, went over to see the buildup, thus getting a preview of what we should see on the morrow. At 1 p.m. the ladies attending the Convention were invited to luncheon. The Annual Business Meeting took place at 3 p.m. and this was conducted in a brisk and businesslike manner by Chairman, Fred D. Pfening, Robert C. King, Treasurer, and Agnes W. King, Editor of the Bandwagon. The finances of the Society are in a healthy condition, membership is growing and the newly formed International Branch has caused universal approbation.

It was decided to issue members with a badge, but the proposal to have a joining membership for husbands and wives was not approved. The whole meeting was conducted in a most cordial atmosphere which reflected great credit on Mr. Pfening.

At 7:30 p.m. the Annual Banquet was held. An excellent meal and a wonderful evening. After the dinner, Selwyn Savage, a former "barker" on the Ringling Bros. side show, gave us a most amusing sample of his talents. This was followed by Chalmer Condon talking about the old Ben Wallace Quarters in Peru, Indiana. It was soon evident that Mr. Condon was

an expert on his subject and his talk was a most scholarly and absorbing one.

It was then my turn to say a few words, to bring greetings from Mr. Edward Graves and the members of the British "International" and to make some remarks about the British circus today. My talk was of necessity a brief one, and the audience were good enough to listen most attentively; later I was bombarded with questions by interested historians. There were more movies, slides and talks after the banquet. The films included a really magnificent coloured effort, complete with recorded sound, made by Charles Hoffman. This film, was about 1,000 feet in length, but Mr. Hoffman told me that he had shot over 4,000 in the making of it, and that it included all the principal circuses of America today.

## ON THE CIRCUS LOT

Saturday morning saw most of the members down on the "lot" watching the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus building up for its one-day stand at South Bend. The Circus Manager, Mr. Walter Kernan, welcomed us to the show and Band-leader "Boom-Boom" Browning took us all round the back doors where we met many circus folk. The afternoon saw practically every one again on the lot busy with cameras, taking pictures of the performers, the animals and the "spec" line-up. Count Nicholas, Equestrian Director, and the management were most helpful and co-operative and many of the members were right inside the tent taking pictures in quantities as only the Americans do.

On Saturday evening the CHS attended the circus in a body. We had the best seats in the crowded house and were afforded an official welcome. Just before the performance started there was a short ceremony when President Pfening made Mr. Clyde Beatty an Honorary Life Member of the Circus Historical Society. In addition Clyde became the 1,000th member of the Society. The circus performance was all that one expects of an American circus and was enjoyed hugely by all present. I hope to make a report on the circus performance later. Most of us stayed on after the show having chats with the performers and watching that never-failing attraction, the tear-down (pull-down in English).

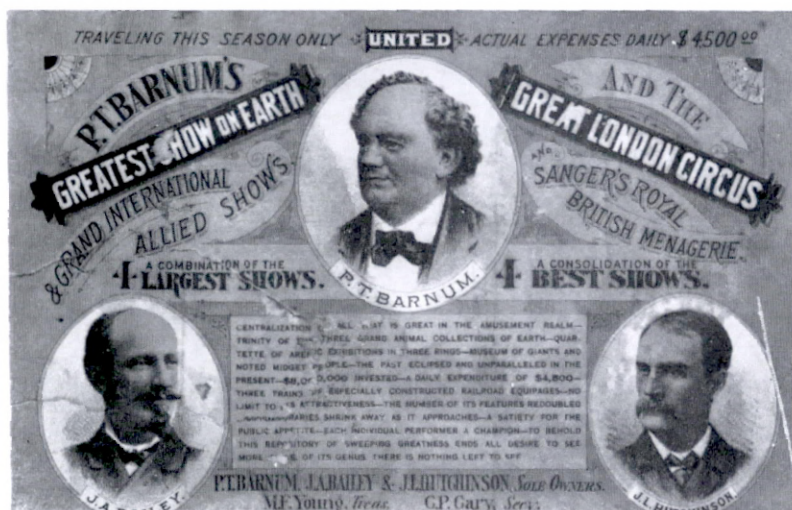
Even this did not conclude the Convention, for there were informal parties and talks on circus, long into the night back at the hotel, and I regret to state that the English representative at the Convention was rather more than somewhat under the weather on Sunday morning.

All in all, a great Convention, and all credit to President Fred D. Pfening; Vice-President Charles P. Fox; Secretary-Treasurer Robert C. King and Editor Agnes W. King; likewise the Convention Committee, Otto Scheiman, Johnny Vogelsang and Otto Haussman. And may it not be too many years before the International Branch of the CHS stage their own Convention in this country!



Letterhead from

# The Chalmer Condon Collection



1881-1883

## CHAPPIE FOX'S LITHOGRAPHS

**S.H. BARRETT & CO'S: NEW UNITED MONSTER RAIL-ROAD SHOWS.**

**AVAST REPOSITORY**  
OF INSTRUCTION  
IN APT ALLIANCE  
WITH  
PLEASANT RECREATION  
CONSTITUTING AN  
Amusement Organization  
POSITIVELY  
WITHOUT A PARALLEL  
FILLED FROM EARTH TO DOOME  
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Filed on Wonders.  
NO MATTER WHERE THE  
SPECTATOR TURNS  
He Witnesses a Fresh and  
AGREEABLE SURPRISE.  
Everybody Charmed,  
DELIGHTED & AMUSED  
BY OUR UNTOLD  
WEALTH OF WONDERS  
And Living Marvels.

**PROF. MORRIS' SCHOOL OF COMICAL DOGS.**

**ORIENTAL CIRCUS, EGYPTIAN CARAVAN AND UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION OF LIVING WONDERS.**

The exact date of this Poster is unknown—most likely it is from the 1880's.

The subject is most eye-appealing.



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# CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1939

# THE BANDWAGON

Vol. 4, No. 5 Sept.-Oct., 1960

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\$2.00 a year in U.S.A.

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AUGUST 17, 1960

CHARLES E. DUBLE

AUGUST 19, 1960

ART AHRENSMEYER

OCTOBER 9, 1960

# FINANCIAL REPORT, 1960 CHS CONVENTION

South Bend, Indiana -- August 11, 12 and 13, 1960

RECEIPTS FROM REGISTRATION ----- \$1,052.00

# DISBURSEMENTS

Letter Certificate for Beatty ----- \$ 5.00  
Frame Certificate for Beatty ----- 2.00  
Convention Badges ----- 39.01  
Rubber Stamp ----- 1.24  
Circus World Museum—for Lithos ----- 107.00  
Rent Tape Recorder ----- 5.00  
Flowers—Ladies Luncheon ----- 72.90  
Banquet ----- 414.00  
Circus Tickets ----- 302.40  
Express—Circus World Museum ----- 2.90  
Miscellaneous Expense ----- 25.37

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ----- \$ 976.82 \$ 976.82

BALANCE ----- \$ 75.18

# Christmas

Send Them Now!



# Greetings

Don't Delay!

Because the NEXT issue of the Bandwagon will be the November December issue, we are reminding you of your Christmas Greeting now. We do want this Greeting Issue to be the biggest we have ever had, and you are the one to make it so. Rates will be—

FULL PAGE ----- \$9.00

HALF PAGE ----- 5.00

QUARTER PAGE ----- 3.00

(This price applies only to Christmas Greetings.)

(No greeting less than a quarter page will be accepted.)

We want all greetings in our office November 21. Why not send yours in today, lest you forget?

*Remember Your Friends — Send A Greeting!*



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Ringling Barnum, 1935 & 1936	-----@ 2.00 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1937 & 1938	-----@ 2.00 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1939 & 1940	-----@ 2.00 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1941 thru 1952	-----@ 1.00 Ea.
Cole Bros.-Beatty, 1935 & 1936	-----@ 1.75 Ea.
Cole Bros.-Beatty, 1937 & 1938	-----@ 1.75 Ea.
Cole Bros. 1939 thru 1952	-----@ 1.25 Ea.
Al G. Barnes & Sells-Floto, 1938	-----1.50
Dailey Bros. R. R. Show	-----1.00

### ROUTE BOOKS

Kelly-Miller, 1947 & 1949	-----1.50 Ea.
Kelly-Miller, 1952 & 1954	-----1.50 Ea.
Kelly-Miller, 1955	-----1.50
Cole Bros., 1937	-----9.50
Cole Bros., 1943	-----2.50
Ringling Barnum, 1937 & 39	-----4.50 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1940 & 41	-----4.00 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1943 & 44	-----2.00 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1945 & 46	-----2.00 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1947, 48, 49	-----2.00 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1950, 51, 52	-----1.75 Ea.
Ringling Barnum, 1953, 54, 55	-----1.75 Ea.
Tom Mix, 1937	-----3.00

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Send 25¢ and we'll send you our new list of sets of 35mm circus slides, exclusive with us, plus a sample slide.

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Send 10¢ for our price lists of easy-to-build circus wagon kits and circus figures for your show.

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Would like to buy negatives or photos on any of the Circuses that were on the road prior to 1945—Especially interested in—

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(Complete list for stamp.)

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# 1960 CONVENTION PHOTOS



Don Smith Photo

Fred D. Pfening Presents Clyde Beatty with Membership Certificate No. 1,000



Pfening Photo



Vogelsang Photo

Edna Antes, Sverre and Faye Braathen



Vogelsang Photo

Hallie Olstadt, Jim Kieffer, Julian Jimenez and Jack Niblett



Don Smith Photo

Don Smith, Eddie Jackson, Frank Orman, Gene Weeks and Paul Van Pool



Vogelsang Photo

Chalmer Condon Gets Autographs.